A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Obſervations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tueſday, July 24. 1705.

MY laſt gave a ſhort Specimen of our Great Trouble and Affliction in this Nation, Occaſioned by the late Diſaſter befallen the Church of *England*, by the Duke of *Marlborough*'s *Beating the* French.

The thing ſeems to ſome People a Jeſt, and Ill Nature may think I have ſome farther Deſign in it. But I ſhall appeal to the *Memorial*, or *High Church Legion in all this*; where the Duke of *M———gh* is reckoned among the Number of the Churches Enemies, Coupled by the Weakneſs and Fooliſh Rage of an Exaſperated Party, with the Queen, the Biſhops, the Nobility, and the Miniſtry.

Speaking therefore in the firſt Perſon of theſe People, the Language of this Paper is Juſtifiable and Regular, if the Duke of *M———gh*, and the preſent Miniſtry, are the Betrayers and Enemies of the Church; if the Church is at the Brink of Ruine, by their being in the Executive part of the Adminiſtration; if the Queen has put out of Her Favour, the Patriots, and Faithful Defenders of the Church, and by that made room for a Self-intereſted Church-Deſtroying, Betraying Party, then every Article that Confirms theſe Men in their Envied Power, is Clenching the Diſaſter, is binding the Yoke of Bondage on the Neck of the Church; 'tis farther and farther Embarraſſing the Church in that Diſtreſs which muſt Endanger her Deſtruction.

It cannot be but the Succeſs of the Churches Enemies, muſt be the Encreaſe of her Danger; the Confirming her Ruine, and the farther making that Miſchief Certain and Irretrievable, that was before but Matter of Doubt and Apprehenſion.

Without obſerving the Diſtinction of particular Heads, this Diſcourſe ſeems plainly to Anſwer the Second Propoſition, and to Solve that Queſtion, *Who are they, the Church is in Danger from?*

And indeed there needs no better Method to wipe off the Dirt thrown at the preſent Government, than to Examine this Head

à-la-Lampoon ——— *Who are they the Church is in Danger from!*

Why, Gentlemen, all the Danger you pretend the Church is in, ariſes,

1. From my Lord T———r, who has, very Unfortunately Manag'd the Exchequer with a Frugality and Dexterity altogether Unexceptionable, as well as Unexpected; and to the Terror of the Church of *England*'s Friends, has prevented the Confuſions and Diſadvantages, an Entangled, Diſorder'd Caſh muſt have brought the Affairs of the War into; that in ſpight of Scarcity, has reſtor'd the Credit of the Exchequer; and notwithſtanding the Stop of our Influx of Bullion, and pulling up the Sluces of a Vaſt, tho' Neceſſary Export of Caſh, has yet upheld the Exchequer, by a Currency of Payments free from Anticipation, Miſapplication, and all the Sad *Et Cetera's* of a Diſtemper'd Nation.

2. From the Duke of *M———gh*——— Who having Abandon'd the True Intereſt of the Church, and being come over to this Motly Miniſtry, falls in with an Intereſt directly contrary to the Church of *England*'s Safety, Diametrically oppoſite to the True Church of *England*'s Intereſt; and as a Conſequence of this fatal Change of Principles, this Duke puſhes on the War in a moſt Violent and Unſeaſonable Manner. In ſhort, To the Great Mortification of all True Friends of the Church of *England*, he Beats the *French*, forces their Lines, takes their Generals, purſues their Armies, Plunders, Burns, and Deſtroys the Country with Fire and Sword.

What tho' the *French* are *Papiſts*, and on other Occaſions we might be pleaſed to ſee them Beaten, this is not the Time for it; we think it much more for the Good of the Church of *England*, to have let it alone a while, that they ſhould have been Beaten by another Party, and that the *French* ſhould have prevail'd, till we had got this Party Down, and Shouldred them out of the Miniſtry, from the Popular Arguments of Ill Succeſs, and Miſmanagements.

Then indeed, if the *French* could have been Beaten, well and good; but to have theſe People Beat the *French*, it may look like Matter of Joy; but the Proſpect is ſad for the Church, while theſe Succeſſes fix them in the Saddle, and give them Victory of the Church, and over the *French*, both together.

Thus the Riddle is Explained; and the Nations preſent Proſperity, and the Churches Safety, being at this time Incompatible, we think our ſelves no bad Subjects, for ſaying, This Victory is a Diſaſter to us; and that it had been much more for the Good of *England*, and the Safety of the Church, that the Duke of *M———gh* had been Beaten and Taken Priſoner; that the *Engliſh* Army had been Driven over the *Maes*, and that the *French* had had their uſual Succeſs, till a Complication of Misfortunes had brought the *Engliſh*, *who always judge by Succeſs*, to Condemn the Actors for the Miſcarriages, and Mob the Queen into a Change of the Miniſtry, and to re-eſtabliſh thoſe who retriev'd the Nations Honour *the Shorteſt Way*.

Let no Man whoſe Penetration is Incapable of ſearching into theſe Niceties, blame us, that we Mourn at their Victories over the *French*; every Blow given *French* Tyranny, Wounds the Church of *England*, and ſeems to prevent Heaven of an Agent to Correct and Suppreſs a Growing Implacable Enemy, and to ruine the *French* King; who, in this caſe, is allow'd to be *Altæ Eccleſiæ Protector*.

Let us Mourn therefore, as becomes us, for the Diſtreſſes and Sorrows of our Mother the Church, while her Enemies proſper; and they ſucceed in all things Abroad and at Home, who have no regard to her Proſperity.

The next Fatal Enemies to the Church, are the Biſhops; we do allow the Biſhops to be the Fathers, and Pillars of the Church; but as Biſhops, they are but Men, and more than that, are *made ſo by Men*——— Whenever a *Dutch Presbyterian* therefore, a Foreigner, &c. puts in Biſhops, and gets ſuch a hank upon the Church, then we muſt Expect——— *Presbyterian Biſhops*, and *that Lawn Sleeves ſhall be no Diſtinguiſhing Character of a Churchman*. Memorial, P. 16.

Then

Then it will be possible to have the Fathers of the Church be her worst Enemies, and neither understand or pursue her True Interest; from this sad Reflection, has the Earnest, Pious, and never Enough to be Commended Zeal of Our Lower House of Convocation proceeded; the End and Design of whose Pious Resolutions, has all along pointed at the Church's Chooling her own Bishops, and taking it out of the Hands of a Foreign *Luke-warm Race*, to fill up the Reverend Stalls with a Parcel of Fellows that shall give up their Mother, whom they pretend to Cherish, to the Rapacious Hands of Schismaticks and Strangers.

Nor do we yet question, but the Time will come, when God will Bless the Pious Endeavours of the Junior Clergy, who are now the Bellweathers, *Bulwarks I would say*, of the Church of *England*, with such Success, that they shall have the Nomination of their own Leaders, and shall have the Opportunity to place such Spiritual Patriots, at the Head of the Church, as shall in spight of Cowardly Misled Princes, and a Corrupted Ministry, secure the Temporal Authority of the Church of *England*, to the Entire Extirpating of Scismatick Phanaticks, Sectaries, and Factions——That shall Effectually repeal Pernicious Tolerations, and Settle the Worship of God in its Original Pomp and Purity; that shall support the Magnificence of her Ceremony, the Decency of her Worship, and leave her neither Civil nor Religious Dissenter to Contend with.

If any Man ask me when this shall be brought to pass——I answer in the Words of the Church's Legion——— "When the "Lower Clergy (who want only to be "*Headed* and *Countenanced*) shall *Exert* "*themselves* to the Destruction of that "Dangerous Principle, *That there ought to* "*be no Distinction among Protestant's* Memo-"rial. P. 27.

Then the Church of *England* will put it out of the Power of her Enemies, to reduce her to the Necessity of Complying with a Time-serving Ministry; No Prince shall be then able to hinder her from crushing her Enemies, she will Rule with her Iron-rod of Persecution, and carry all before her.

Then she'll let the World see she can pull down Popery without the Help of Phanaticks, and Dissenters, that she can best be judge, which of her Enemies are most Dangerous, and which ought to be first Destroy'd; and not be Crampt and Fetter'd at the Will and Pleasure of Princes, Statesmen, Interest, and Parties; she will then take upon her to judge when it is proper to hang out her bloody Flag, and when to pull it down.

When Saucy Scriblers, and Impotent Pamphleteers, shall set up to discover the *Arcana* of her Ecclesiastical Designs, they shall be punish'd as they deserve; and whether the thing be true or false, shall feel the Weight of the Church's Hand, and suffer for divulging our Secrets before their Time, and for saying that in Jest, which we have taken Liberty to say in Earnest, both before and since.

Nor shall Exposing our *shortest ways* with the Enemies of the Church's Interest, be any more pernicious to us, or break any more into our Measures, so as to open the Nation's Eyes, and alarm the Enemy; but the Church having obtain'd the Coercive Power, by the Regency of her own Ecclesiastical Instrument, shall be no more oblig'd to act under Disguises, or to disown those things she really intends, upon the Casualty of their being too untimely detected.

These are the Days of Joy and Gladness which the High-Church of *England* hopes for, and which the Memorial rightly says, the Lower Clergy want only to be Headed and Countenanced to bring to pass.

All those, who, with design to prevent this Triumphant Condition of the Church, 'tis most justly said she is in danger from; 'tis true, many of her Sons are blinded to withstand this blessed Design, and to mingle themselves with her Enemies, and suffer themselves to be debauched from their Duty to the Church, who in seeming Favour to pernicious Enemies act to the Prejudice of the Church; These, we say, our Danger comes from; amongst these are too many intrusted in Government, Army, and Navy, *&c.* from these the Church's Danger is manifest.

niſeſt; and therefore from their Succeſſes; the Church juſtly apprehends her Deliverance is poſtponed.

Thus beating the *French* Army, dividing their Navy, deſtroying their Ships, is clearly made out to be dangerous to the Church, deſtructive to Hopes of High-Church Revolutions; and conſequently a Diſaſter, and Misfortune, to the whole High-Church Party in *England*, and what they ought to be very far from rejoycing at.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

THE *Appendix* to the *Review*; Together with an *Index* of the Firſt Volume; which Compleats the ſaid Firſt Volume of the *Reviews*: And all thoſe Gentlemen, who have beſpoke of the Author, the ſaid Firſt Volume Entire, may have them Deliver'd, Bound up together with all the *Supplements*, at *J. Matthews*'s, or at the Publiſhers of the *Review*.

WHereas a Propoſal has been made by the Author of this Paper, for Subſcriptions to a Book in Folio, Entitled, *Jure Divino*; or, *A Satyr upon Tyranny and Paſſive Obedience*. To which, Abundance of Gentlemen having long ſince Subſcrib'd, and the Time ſeeming long for its coming out, ſome very Good Reaſons having obliged the Author to put a ſtop to it,

Theſe are to give Notice, That the ſaid Book is now in the Preſs, and ſhall go on to be Printed with all Expedition: And for the further Satisfaction of the Subſcribers, the Sheets may be ſeen by any that pleaſe to give themſelves that Trouble, at Mr. *Matthews*'s, as they come out of the Preſs.

All thoſe Gentlemen, who have Collected Subſcriptions for this Book are Deſir'd to ſend in an Account of what Number they have taken, there being no more to be Printed, than ſhall be given Notice, as Subſcribed; and, if they pleaſe, to Pay the Subſcription Money to Mr. *Matthews*, in *Pilkington Court*, *Little-Britain*, Receipts will be given there for it.

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